

REMARKS

On consideration of the claims of this pending application, Applicant submits the above Preliminary Amendment. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-20 and 27 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9 and 27 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 9 and 27 have been amended and claims 21-26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Because the foregoing changes introduce no new matter, their entry is respectfully requested.

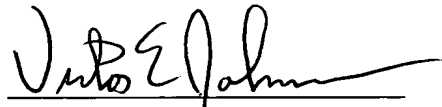
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. 469390-00030; Docket No. A-71626-1/DJB/VEJ).

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

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